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After working in Honduras as a USAID contractor, my life completely changed when I was diagnosed with Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. I took disability leave and moved to California to get the training I needed to adjust to the partial loss of my eyesight. During this time I took computer courses and learned how to use adaptive technologies. With the aspiration of joining the Foreign Service, I also took courses in U.S. government. My dreams were realized in 2002 when I joined the U.S. Department of State. I became a Public Diplomacy Officer and served as a U.S. diplomat in Mexico. I then spent four wonderful years as a Cultural Affairs Officer in El Salvador. Being able to continue my work abroad and share the many facets of U.S. culture with Salvadoran citizens was truly gratifying. Now, as Deputy Course Coordinator for the Cultural Affairs tradecraft course, I'm helping to teach students about the career I love so much.

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